

City of Gaithersburg

2020 Pesticide Application Report

The Department of Public Works established a Pesticide Use Policy in May, 2020. The policy requires City staff to issue a report each January regarding pesticide use during the previous year. The sections of the report include:

- A summary of **Pesticide Application** by the City of Gaithersburg Public Works staff
- A summary of the amount of pesticides used by **City of Gaithersburg Contractors**
- A **Comparison Report** of pesticide use of the reporting year to the baseline year of 2019
- A status update on our **Organic Maintenance Pilot Areas**
- A listing of when **Pesticides Were Applied in No Spray Areas** per the exemptions of the Pesticide Policy

Pesticide Application

The City of Gaithersburg Public Works staff uses two different pesticide chemicals. The synthetic pesticide used is [Round Up](#). The dilution for synthetic pesticide applied by Public Works staff is 1.5 ounces per gallon. The organic pesticide used by the Public Works staff is [Avenger](#). Avenger is diluted at a rate of 16 ounces per gallon.

CHEMICAL CONCENTRATE (OZ)	Type of pesticide used The total amount of chemical used in all of the application. The chemical is purchased in a concentrated form and then mixed with water before application
TOTAL LIQUID APPLICATION (GALS)	The total amount of diluted concentrate applied to the area in all applications

Chemical	Concentrate (OZ)	Total Liquid (GAL)
Round Up	1,086	724
Avenger	704	44

City of Gaithersburg Contractors

In order to maintain the City's vast green spaces at the highest possible quality, the City outsources additional support from three contractors.

One of the contractor's helps maintain roadway rights-of-way and supplement some of the work in parks. That contractor used [Prosecutor Pro](#), a synthetic pesticide that is diluted as a rate 2 ounces per gallon. In 2020, 288 gallons of diluted Prosecutor Pro, or 576 ounces of concentrate, was applied throughout the City.

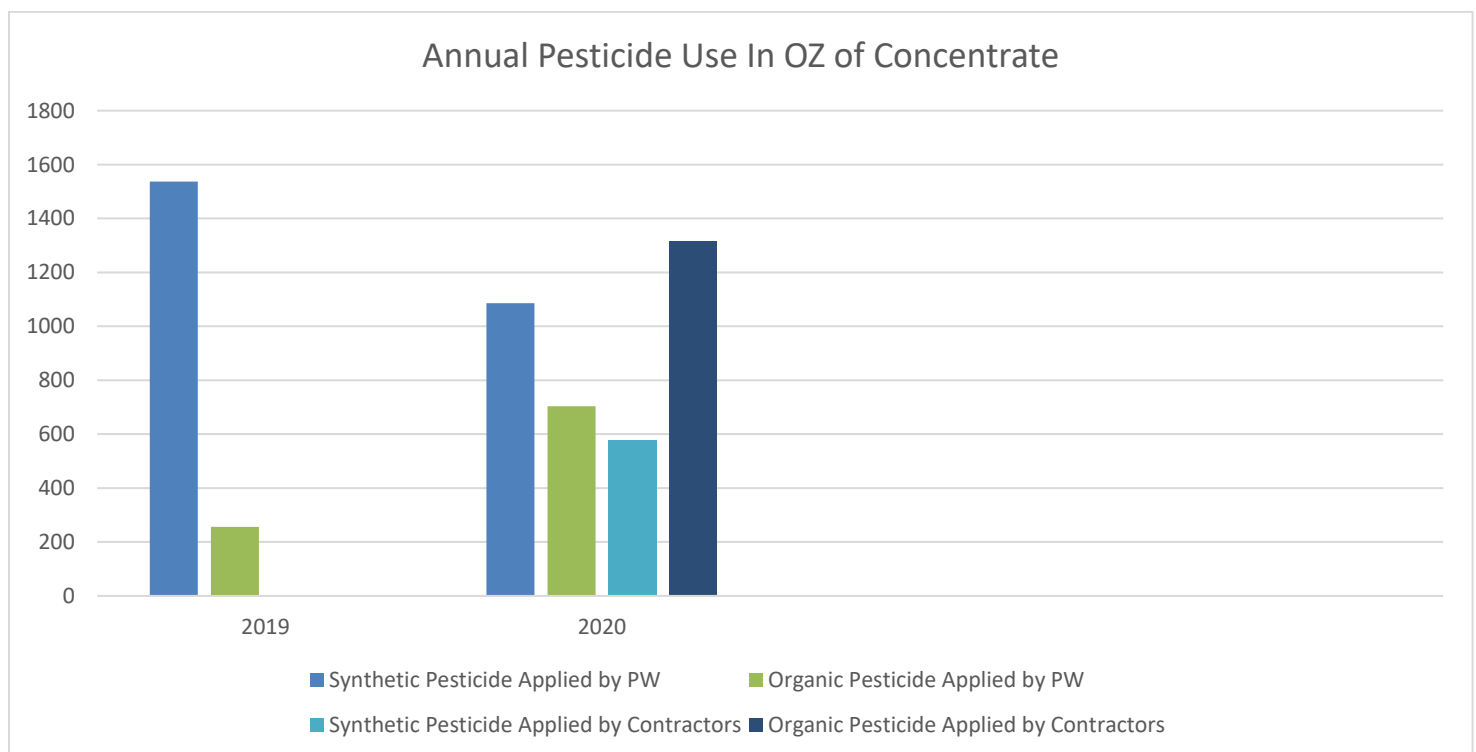
The City also outsources the maintenance of the Kentlands Green Space and Constitution Gardens. This work is outsourced to experts who ensure that there is no incidental contamination as a result of using the same equipment that is used to maintain non-organic care areas. The contractor who maintains these areas uses two organic pesticides. [Fiesta](#) is used in the spring and is applied at a rate of 12.6 ounces per 1,000 square feet. [Avenger](#) is used in the fall and is applied at a rate of 4 ounces per gallon.

Comparison Report

For the purposes of the initial report, 2019 data was included. However, since data from our contractors is not available retroactively, 2020 will represent the baseline year. It should be noted that environmental factors may influence the total amount of pesticide use.

The following chart shows the amount of both synthetic and organic pesticides applied by City of Gaithersburg Public Works staff, and the amount of both synthetic and organic pesticide applied by contractors employed by the City. Definitions of organic and synthetic pesticides can be found in the City's Pesticide Ordinance, section 2-6 in the City Code.

It is important to note that the dilution for synthetic pesticides is significantly higher than organic pesticides. So while there seems to be more organic pesticide used by volume in the City, it is not used as frequently.



The chart shows a significant reduction in synthetic pesticide applied by City's the Public Works Department from 2019 to 2020. While some of that can be attribute to the City's new Pesticide Policy, it should be noted that 2020 called for reduced size crews and a reallocation of human resources. As a result, areas may not have been maintained to the same standard as previous years. Playgrounds were closed for a period during the year as well due to the public health crisis, which eliminated the need for spraying for stinging insects and reduced the amount of weed seed carried into the engineered wood fiber on the shoes of playground users.

Organic Maintenance Pilot Areas

As previously mentioned, the City uses two contractors to support its's organic care pilot areas. As evident by the amount of organic chemical used to treat the pilot area, maintaining the aesthetics of the area required additional application of organic chemicals. The contractor maintaining the Kentlands Green Space noted that unlike synthetic chemicals, the organic chemicals only burn down the exposed plant and do not kill the roots. That same contractor found success with organic fertilizer, noting that grass blades looked stronger weeks after application and there was significant improvement in the grass color from a light to dark green.

The contractor maintaining Constitution Gardens did not opt to provide comment on the program.

Pesticides Applied in No-Spray Areas

Since the adoption of the Pesticide Policy in May of 2020, there were no instances when spraying occurred in a no-spray zone. This may be related to the limited use of playgrounds during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which could significantly affect comparisons moving forward.